

Post Domestic Substances List (DSL) Categorization

Categorization was the first step in setting priorities for conducting risk assessment of chemical substances on the DSL. Health Canada was responsible for addressing substances that were found to have the greatest potential for human exposure. Environment Canada, on the other hand, was responsible for substances that are persistent or bioaccumulative according to regulations. Following categorization, Health Canada would provide further attention to substances shown to be persistent or bioaccumulative and 'Inherently Toxic to Humans' and Environment Canada would do the same with persistent or bioaccumulative substances found to be 'Inherently Toxic to non-Human Organisms'.

The government of Canada saw the completion of categorization as an opportunity to provide a consistent information base on which the thousands of existing substances potentially in commercial use could be compared and prioritized. The Government is using this information base to transform how it protects Canadians and their environment from risks associated with the chemicals we use.

Results of the Domestic Substances List (DSL) Categorization

4300 substances were identified as requiring further action. 4000 of those substances met the categorization criteria while 300 warrant further attention from a human health perspective. Considerations for the 1st round of priority setting and upcoming action of the 4300 substances:

- The degree of hazard/risk
- Commercial activity in Canada
- Existing/ongoing risk assessment and risk management activities
- Opportunities to engage internationally and "share the work" for a global issue
- Sectoral approaches and leadership in demonstrating safe management practices

Upon application of the above considerations, 500 of the 4300 substances were labelled High Priorities, 2600 Medium Priorities and 1200 Low Priorities.

The Chemicals Management Plan

The key objectives of Canada's new Chemicals Management Plan are to significantly strengthen the existing substances regimes, to integrate government activities, to establish government accountability and to strengthen industry's role in proactively identifying and safely managing risks associated with chemicals they produce and use.

Announcements on Canada's Chemical Management Plan included:

- Prohibitions;
- Virtual Elimination;
- Challenge Program;
- Restrictions on re-introduction and new uses (SNACs);
- Rapid screening of lower risk chemical substances;
- Monitoring & Surveillance and Research; and
- Integrating Government's Chemical Activities
 - mandatory ingredient labelling of cosmetics;
 - regulations to address environmental risks posed by pharmaceuticals and personal care products;
 - enhanced management of environmental contaminants in food;
- Performance agreements recognizing industry leadership

Prohibitions on categories of toxic substances include:

2-Methoxyethanol, Pentachlorobenzene and Tetrachlorobenzenes

- Regulations Amending the Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2005 (2Methoxyethanol, Pentachlorobenzene and Tetrachlorobenzenes) came into force on February 9, 2007.
 - restrict the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale and import of these substances

Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, its Salts and Certain Other Compounds (PFOS)

- Proposed Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, its Salts and Certain Other Compounds Regulations Regulations were published in the Canada Gazette, Part I in December 2006
 - prohibit PFOS and products containing PFOS with a limited number of exemptions proposed

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)

- Proposed Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers Regulations were published in the Canada Gazette, Part I in December 2006 as a first step in the risk management of PBDEs in Canada.
 - focus on the three PBDEs that pose the greatest threat to the environment

Under Canada's Chemical Management plan, virtual elimination is defined as the reduction of the quantity or concentration of a toxic substance in a release into the environment below concentrations that can be accurately measured. Virtual Elimination applies to substances that meet the criteria of being persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic under CEPA 1999, and predominantly anthropogenic. Substances that meet these criteria will follow the CEPA 1999 process for addition to the Virtual Elimination list.

High Priorities – Top 500

Within the Chemicals Management Plan, the top 500 priorities are addressed through 4 components including The Challenge Program, Significant New Activity Controls (SNACs), Petroleum Sector or Perfluorinated substances Stream and, Substances that are already in the assessment or management stream

Through **The Challenge Program** the Government of Canada is using existing legal tools and the regulatory process to challenge industry to provide new information about how it is managing 193 chemical substances that are potentially harmful to human health or the environment.

The federal government is publishing, in batches of 15-30 substances every three months (started in February 2007);

- Profiles of chemical substances for stakeholder comment
- Mandatory surveys to manufacturers, importers and users of these substances concerning their uses, releases and management
- Questionnaires on general life cycle and other pertinent management issues

Manufacturers, importers and users must submit the specific information detailed in the challenge survey within a maximum of 6 months (note four month timeline for the mandatory survey). Government scientists will then have a maximum of 6 months to publish a screening level assessment.

Evidence of commercial activity in Canada was obtained for some substances that were deemed a high priority for action through the results of a S.71 Notice (survey) issued in March 2006. For those substances for which no commercial activity was identified through the survey and that were high hazard (PBiT), the Government of Canada began in December 2006 **issuing Significant New Activity requirements** under CEPA 1999 (~150 chemical substances). These notices mean industry must provide data (under the New Substances Program) to be reviewed by Environment Canada and Health Canada before any of the chemical substances on the list can be re-introduced into Canada. In the spring/summer 2007, these provisions under CEPA 1999 will be proposed for some substances that have inherently hazardous properties for humans.

Medium Priorities – International, Research & Monitoring

Approximately 600 of the 4300 substances are being addressed under international programs (e.g., HPV) and with coming passage of REACH, new information will become available over time. Research and monitoring must be aligned to support ongoing program priorities through measuring performance and improving tools, as well as identifying emerging issues and trends. Working with priority sectors to negotiate and implement performance agreements needs

to be undertaken and consideration of remaining feeder groups to adjust and refine priorities will continue.

Low Priorities - Rapid Screening of low hazard, low risk substances

Some substances met categorization criteria based on hazard despite the fact that many may not be priorities for assessment based on their low potential for risk. We believe that these substances are not likely to pose a risk to the environment in the amounts at which they are found. The accelerated screening approach will apply a worst-case scenario to determine whether further assessment is necessary. Results of this will be released for public comment shortly.

Chemical Management Plans' Activities

The information base provided by categorization will enable greater integration across current federal chemicals regimes. For those substances that have been categorized in, where uses are controlled under other federal statutes, we will be working within those areas to ensure the appropriate management measures are in place. Activity undertaken under these regimes will ensure that the risks posed to Canadians and the environment are lessened.

Categorization highlights the advantages of establishing a strong information base from which to advance a regulatory agenda. The Government will build on this information base by implementing a national health and environment monitoring and surveillance program that identifies emerging priorities and tracks Canadians' exposure to toxic substances and measures the effectiveness of our regulatory actions so that we know what works best. The Government will enhance regulatory science by leading research and partnering with external research bodies in order to inform risk assessments and regulatory interventions. The Government will develop and implement a cyclical inventory update provision for CEPA's Domestic Substances List through industry reporting on the substances they use, and the volume of these substances on the Canadian market.

For more information:

Chemical Substances Web Portal:

<http://www.chemicalsubstances.gc.ca>

Challenge:

http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/index_e.html